wanting only in Aru, Salwatty, and Waigiou. The next most widely spread species is *P. magnifica*, occurring in two islands (Salwatty and Mysol) as well as on the mainland. The other species are all found on the mainland only—with the exception of *P. apoda* (probably restricted to Aru), and *P. rubra*, which, being certainly confined to the small island of Waigiou, offers the most restricted range of the whole family.

It is interesting to remark that all the islands on which true *Paradiseæ* are found are connected by banks of soundings to the mainland of New Guinea. The *hundred-fathom line* includes the islands of Aru, Mysol, Waigiou, and Jobie, which have probably been, at no distant geological period, connected with New Guinea; while Ké, Ceram, &c., are separated from it by deep sea, and on them no *Paradiseæ* exist.

The island of Gilolo, on which the genus *Semioptera* occurs, extends towards Waigiou, and has the island of Guebe exactly between the two, suggesting the probability of a connexion there; but the depth of the intervening sea is unknown.

It may be considered as certain that every species of Paradise Bird yet obtained from the natives has come from the north peninsula of New Guinea, that being the part most frequented by the Malay traders. The vast extent of country east of long. 136° is quite unknown; but there can be little doubt that it contains other and perhaps yet more wonderful forms of this beautiful group of birds. If we look round the whole circumference of the globe, we shall be unable to find a region at once so promising to the naturalist and so absolutely a "terra incognita" as this great tropical land; and it is to be hoped that our explorers and naturalists may soon be induced to direct their attention to this hitherto neglected country.

2. On a New Species of Chlamydera, or Bower-Bird. By John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., etc.

I am indebted to the researches of F. T. Gregory, Esq., the West Australian explorer, for a knowledge of a new species of this group of birds, which are rendered remarkable by their habit of constructing bowers or playing-places. It was collected by Mr. Gregory in North-western Australia, and is doubtless the species which constructs the bowers described by Captain (now Sir George) Grey in the first volume of his 'Travels,' pp. 196 and 245, where he states that on gaining the summit of one of the sandstone ranges forming the watershed of the streams flowing into the Glenelg and Prince Regent's Rivers, "we fell in with a very remarkable nest, or what appeared to me to be such. We had previously seen several of them, and they had always afforded us food for conjecture as to the agent and purpose of such singular structures." This "very curious sort of nest, which was frequently found by myself and other individuals of the party, not only along the sea-shore, but in some instances at a distance of six or seven miles from it, I once conceived must have

belonged to a Kangaroo-rat, until Mr. Gould informed me that it is the run or playing-ground of the bird he has named *Chlamydera nuchalis*. These nests were formed of dead grass and parts of bushes, sunk a slight depth into two parallel furrows in sandy soil, and then nicely arched above. But the most remarkable fact connected with them was, that they were always full of broken shells, large heaps of which protruded from each extremity of the nest; these were invariably sea-shells. In one instance, in the nest the most remote from the sea that we discovered, one of the men of the party found, and brought to me, the stone of some fruit which had evidently been rolled in the sea. These stones he found lying in a heap in the nest; and they are now in my possession."

The specimen sent to me by Mr. Gregory bears a very general resemblance to the *Chlamydera maculata*, being spotted all over like that species; but it differs in the guttations of the upper surface being of a larger size and much more distinct, in the abdomen being buff, and in the shafts of the primaries being straw-yellow. In all probability, the specimen is a female, since there is no trace of the beautiful lilaceous nuchal mark seen in the males only of *Chlamydera maculata* and *C. nuchalis*. Of this well-defined group there are now known three very distinct species, viz., the *C. maculata*, of the east coast; the *C. nuchalis*, which frequents the northern parts; and the *C. guttata*, of the north-western provinces of Australia.

CHLAMYDERA GUTTATA, Gould.

General tint of the upper surface and wings deep-brownish black, with a spot of rich buff at the tip of each feather, those of the head and nape being very small, while those on the body and wings are of large size, accordant, in fact, with the increased size of the feathers; the spots on the tips of the greater wing-coverts are not so round as those on the back; the primaries are very pale brown, fading into white on the basal portion of their inner webs, which is yellow on the under surface; their shafts straw-yellow; tail-feathers pale brown, with buff shafts and white tips; throat-feathers brown at the base, with an arrow-head-shaped mark of pale buff at the tip of each, the buff tips becoming much larger on the chest; centre of the abdomen pale buff; flanks, thighs, and under tail-coverts buff, barred with light brown; bill black; gape rich yellow; feet apparently very dark olive.

Total length 11½ inches; bill 1¼; wing 6; tail 4¾; tarsi 1¾.

Hab. North-western Australia.

Remark.—The primaries of the specimen described are much worn; they are doubtless tipped with white in fresh-moulted specimens.